

CERTIFICATE OF NEED

ADVISORY

Michigan Department of Health & Human Services

CERTIFICATE OF NEED

Lewis Cass Building
320 S. Walnut St.
Lansing, Michigan 48913
(517) 241-3344 -Fax (517) 241-2962

Regional Review Agency

Certificate of Need documents for proposed projects in West Central Michigan will not be accepted until the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS) and the Alliance for Health each has received them pursuant to M.C.L. 333.22226(6) and Administrative Rule 325.9201.

Some applications are subject to a limited number of “window dates” for receipt by MDCHHS and Alliance for Health. Receipt after the designated application date will result in placement of the application in the next “window period.” Failure to submit at the proper time could therefore add 30 to 120 days to the start of the formal review period. This would impact the date on which a final decision can be expected. Some of the data used to support the need for projects must be dated, and a delay in the start of the review could require an applicant to secure new supporting data. Applicants must adhere to this advisory. In particular, applications will not be considered submitted to the Department unless the application is received at the Department’s Lansing office and, if applicable, the appropriate regional review agency, before 4:00 p.m., on or before a designated application date.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CONTACT: Tom Hanley, APR
Wondergem Consulting,
616-235-7467 x 105
616-443-3066 (cell)
tom@wondergem.com

ALLIANCE FOR HEALTH ANNOUNCES NEW APPROACH TO CERTIFICATE OF NEED

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — (February 5, 2015) The Alliance for Health announces a major change to its scope of review for Certificate of Need, CON. The Alliance for Health CON Evaluation Board will limit its review of CON applications to health care project costs that exceed \$10 million, that propose a major new service in the region such as organ transplant, or consolidate existing health care organizations and/or change ownership.

Alliance for Health President and CEO, Paul Brand, said, "Our agency is narrowing the focus of CON review and broadening the scope of public discussion concerning health care projects of community interest." Brand said The Alliance for Health will maintain its statutory obligations as the CON regional review agency for West Michigan with these new criteria under the Michigan Public Health Code.

"Under this new review process, the Alliance for Health would have reviewed less than 8 new projects per year in the last three years, a savings of our resources for an unreimbursed responsibility going forward," Brand said.

Under the new guidelines any member of the Alliance for Health may request the agency review a particular project not meeting the new criteria which may have impact on quality, access and cost of health care services in the region.

The Evaluation Board conducted a comprehensive review that included interviews with 45 community stakeholders in deciding to change the CON application process.

Attorney Carl Verbeek, a community stakeholder interviewed during the Evaluation Board review, said, "This is a good way for the Alliance to continue to perform an important function for West Michigan in a manner which is consistent with the Alliance's resources. These are the issues which would have a significant impact on the healthcare services for this area, so they warrant community involvement."

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